

March 1, 1977

Dr. C.W. Clancy
Department of Biology
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Dear Dr. Clancy,

This letter is in connection with the collection of material for a memoir on Ed Tatum - perhaps this is best explained by the enclosure.

I am writing to you particularly, at Dave Perkins' suggestion, trying to focus a little bit more sharply on the critical steps in the early genesis of the Neurospora research. Few if any documents seem to have survived, and what I have been able to get from George Beadle, lacking such corroboration and after the passage of so many years and diverse events, is still a little vague on some of the details of what was started and just when.

Since from the write-up in the American Men of Science, I assume you may have left Stanford for Oregon in the summer or early fall of 1940, you might be in a position to offer some critical timing information about the development of these ideas as you were able to perceive them at the point of your leaving Stanford.

I have heard a good deal of indirect comment that Beadle and Tatum had been exploring organisms other than Drosophila for some time prior to the decision to use Neurospora but have been unable to get any detail on that.

If you have any recollections or notes that might help pin down exactly when Neurospora was being thought of, and what alternative systems were under consideration I would be most appreciative.

Naturally, I would also welcome any other reminiscences about Ed Tatum and the scene at Stanford during the time of your graduate work that might be helpful in composing this memoir and for the archives.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics